

Consultation on a proposal to expand Radley Church of England Primary School

13 January 2020 – 10 February 2020

Radley CE Primary School is located in the village of Radley, in the Vale of White Horse District. The school is part of the Abingdon area partnership of schools and currently has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 15 (i.e. the school admits up to 15 children each year in to the Reception class).

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in February 2019 and is graded as Good.

The total number of children on roll at the current time is 106 as at October 2019 is shown below:

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Number on roll</i>	15	17	13	16	16	13	16

What is being proposed?

Expansion

Oxfordshire County Council, working with the leadership team of the school, proposes to expand Radley CE Primary School to 1 form of entry. This would mean an increase in Radley's admission number in September 2021 from 15 to 30 on a permanent basis.

This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2021 onward would consist of up to 30 places, making a maximum total of 210 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

From September 2021, total numbers at the school would grow gradually each year as up to 30 children are admitted into the Reception classes, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. Should there be a demand for places in older year groups as a result of children moving into the village and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to speed up the expansion of the older year groups.

Class organisation

Where possible, county council policy is to organise and expand primary schools in multiples of 15 or 30 children per year group (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This helps schools organise more easily their classes across the year groups. An

advantage of this proposal to increase the Admission Number from 15 to 30 is that the children would be admitted in forms of 30 children, and would potentially stay in those single age classes as they progressed up through the school, rather than being taught in mixed-age classes.

There are many schools across the county that operate with an admission number of 30 as standard. The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school, and would be dependent on the number of children admitted.

Reasons for this proposal

At the time of writing, outline planning permission has been granted for 240 new homes in Radley, as allocated in the Vale of the White Horse District Council Local Plan. It is estimated that, when fully occupied, this development will result in approximately 62 additional primary school pupils in the village.

Full planning permission has also been granted for 270 homes in South Kennington. While the latter dwellings will be closer in distance to St Swithun's CE Primary School in Kennington, they will sit within the designated area for Radley CE Primary School and so are likely to increase demand for places at Radley as well as at St Swithun's (which has recently been expanded to 2 form entry and is unable to expand further).

In recent years nearly all children admitted have lived within the designated area for Radley CE Primary School; in some years the school has already had to refuse places to children living within the designated area. The county council therefore considers it essential to expand Radley CE Primary School to ensure sufficient pupil places are available in Radley.

The need for the school's expansion is noted in the Radley Neighbourhood Plan, and is supported by Radley Parish Council. The school also offers nursery provision, and the proposed expansion would increase the number of nursery places provided from 48 part-time equivalent to 52 part-time equivalent.

Pupil Census Data from October 2019 shows that, at this time, Radley CE Primary School had 106 pupils on roll, so has already exceeded its capacity of 105. Current pupil forecasts (calculated summer 2019) indicate that numbers are expected to continue to grow rapidly at the school, with an increasing shortage of places if the school does not expand. Reception pupil numbers are also forecast to persistently exceed the current admission number of 15.

Expansion of school capacity is needed to meet the forecast demands of the growing population in the area, and to allow for population fluctuations and movement into the area by new families, including into new homes planned to be built around the village. To enable the county council to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places for the growing population in Radley, a permanent expansion of Radley CE Primary School is now sought.

If Radley CE Primary School expands to 1 form entry (PAN 30) on a permanent basis, the county council considers there will be sufficient places to meet the scale of currently forecast population growth.

Buildings

To accommodate a permanent increase to PAN 30, the county council would provide 4 additional classrooms and other related accommodation. Additional land has been made available for the school's expansion as part of a S106 agreement between OCC and Radley College; this will ensure that the school site area is sufficient to meet the government and the council's requirements for a 1 form entry school.

It is expected that the cost of expanding the school will be met from money secured from housing developers and capital funding provided by the county council.

Important points to remember

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding Radley CE Primary School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by Vale of White Horse District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to Vale of White Horse District Council when they are submitted for planning decision.
- Issues around traffic, parking and the design of the school accommodation will be addressed through the planning process when the planning application is submitted.
- This consultation is taking place until **10 February 2020**. You have until midnight on that date to give us your views. All responses received will then be considered.
- As this is a voluntary controlled school, the decision maker is the county council. The next step, after consideration of consultation responses, would be for the publication of a statutory Public Notice, which is when interested parties can formally respond to the proposal. We would currently expect this to be published in spring 2020. The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services would then decide whether to approve the proposal to expand the school.

How you can respond to this consultation

This information is available online at the county council's website in the consultations section:

https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/radley_expansion/consultationHome

We would like to hear from you if you support this proposal as well as if you have any concerns. There are several ways you can submit your views:

- respond online at the above web address using the online form for this consultation, on the Oxfordshire County Council current consultations webpage;
- email your response to: school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk (please quote 'Radley expansion' in the subject line);
- hand in your response at the reception office of Radley CE Primary School, to be passed on to the county council.

- post a written response to: **Joanne Booker, Access to Learning, Oxfordshire County Council, 4th Floor, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND**, marking your envelope RADLEY EXPANSION.

You must respond by 10 February 2020.